

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Introduction:

Claims 47-49 and 52-55 have been amended (not for reasons of patentability but to make those claims compatible with new claim 60), and claims 60-67 are newly added. Claims 1-46, 50, 51, and 56-59 are canceled. Claims 47-49, 52-55, and 60-67 are now pending in the application. In addition, the specification and the drawings have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Amendments To The Drawings:

Figures 2A and 2C are amended to add the terminal, electronic component, and force expressly described in the specification, for example, on page 10, lines 10-12 as follows: "When the tip structure 20 is placed in contact with a *terminal* of an *electronic component* . . . and a *force* is applied, the tip structure 20 will deflect across the surface of the terminal." Applicants have thus not added new matter to Figures 2A and 2C but have merely added the terminal, electronic component, and force already referred to and described in the specification. Thus, no new matter has been added to the drawings.

Objection To The Drawings:

The drawings were objected to on the grounds that the drawings allegedly do not show "the structure of the claimed semiconductor device" or "illustrations of the claimed processes." To the extent the objection requires that the drawings illustrate examples of anything in addition to the recitations in the claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the objection. New independent claim 60—the only independent claim now pending in the application—is directed to a "semiconductor die tested by making temporary electrical connections between interconnection elements of a contactor device and terminals of the die." Claim 60 describes the method of making the temporary electrical connections as comprising: "forcing into contact blades of ones of the interconnection elements and ones of the terminals, [and] the blades deflecting across the terminals in a motion that is within plus or minus forty-five degrees of a length of the blade." A non-limiting example of the foregoing is now illustrated in Figures 2A and 2C. For example, the specification states that the electronic component 42, which includes terminal 44, can be, among other things, "an integrated circuit," which as is known in the field, can be a semiconductor die.

Moreover, Figure 2C shows a non-limiting example in which terminal 44 is forced into a blade 22, which can cause the blade 22 to deflect across the terminal 44. (See the specification, e.g., pg. 10, lines 5-23.) The substrate 26, among other disclosures in the specification, is a non-limiting example of a contactor device. The drawings thus show a non-limiting example that includes all of the recitations in the claim 60. 37 CFR 1.83(a) does not require drawings that show more than the recitations in the claims. The drawings of this application therefore fully comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a).

To the extent the PTO is asserting that the drawings must show a particular structure for the die recited in the claims, Applicants respectfully traverse such an assertion. 37 CFR 1.83(a) requires nothing more than that the recitations in a claim be illustrated with examples in the drawings. As discussed above, all of the recitations stated in the claims are illustrated by non-limiting examples in the drawings. Because the claims do not recite a particular die structure, no particular die structure need be illustrated. Applicants note that the claims are product-by-process claims and describe the claimed product—the die—in terms of a process for making the product rather than structural features of the product. Should the PTO persist in objecting to the drawings on the grounds that particular structural features of the die not recited in the claims are lacking in the drawings, Applicants respectfully request that the PTO cite authority (e.g., the MPEP, a PTO rule, a statute, etc.) for the proposition that the drawings must illustrate structure not expressly recited in the claims.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112, First Paragraph:

Claims 46-59 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants contest the PTO's assertion that the specification does not disclose the elements of claims 46-59. For example, the specification repeatedly refers to testing an electronic device, which the specification states can be an integrated circuit or semiconductor device. (See, e.g., specification pg. 2, line 2; page 10, lines 3 and 4; page 9, line 21; page 12, line 7; page 20, lines 13-16; page 23, line 7, page 24, line 15, page 31, lines 7-17.) The specification also refers to a probe card assembly several times. (See, e.g., specification pg. 1, line 21; page 9, lines 7-9; page 19, line 13; page 24, line 10.) The specification also mentions a space transformer, which is a non-limiting example of a probe substrate. (Specification page 19, line 13.) The specification also describes use of a prober,

which is known to those skilled in the field as equipment that can be used to test semiconductor dies. (Specification page 30, lines 10-23.)

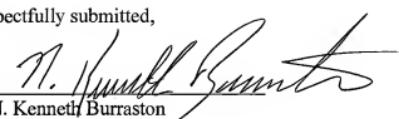
Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled many of claims 46-59, and added new claims 60-66. As discussed above, the drawings and the specification disclose non-limiting examples of the recitations in the claims and thus fully support the claims. For example, Figures 2A and 2C, as well as the discussion of those figures, fully meets the written description requirement of 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for—but does not limit—new independent claim 60.

Again, to the extent the PTO persists in requiring that the specification disclose or illustrate particular structural features of the die not recited in the claims, Applicants respectfully request that the PTO cite authority (e.g., the MPEP, a PTO rule, a statute, etc.) for the proposition that the written description of 35 USC 112, first paragraph requires that the specification illustrate or disclose structure not expressly recited in the claims.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

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